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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY SUMMARY

25 August 1960

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Congo Premier Lumumba's abrupt withdrawal of his more extreme charges against Secretary General Hammarskjold and the UN Command in the Congo has forestalled an international crisis for the time being. Lumumba had threatened to demand complete withdrawal of the UN force.

Lumumba's about-face followed a Security Council discussion in which the majority voiced support for Hammarskjold's policy of noninterference in the Katanga dispute. His action probably stemmed from realization of his government's growing isolation from other African nations. The USSR withdrew an anti-Hammarskjold resolution at the 21 August session when it failed to gain Asian-African

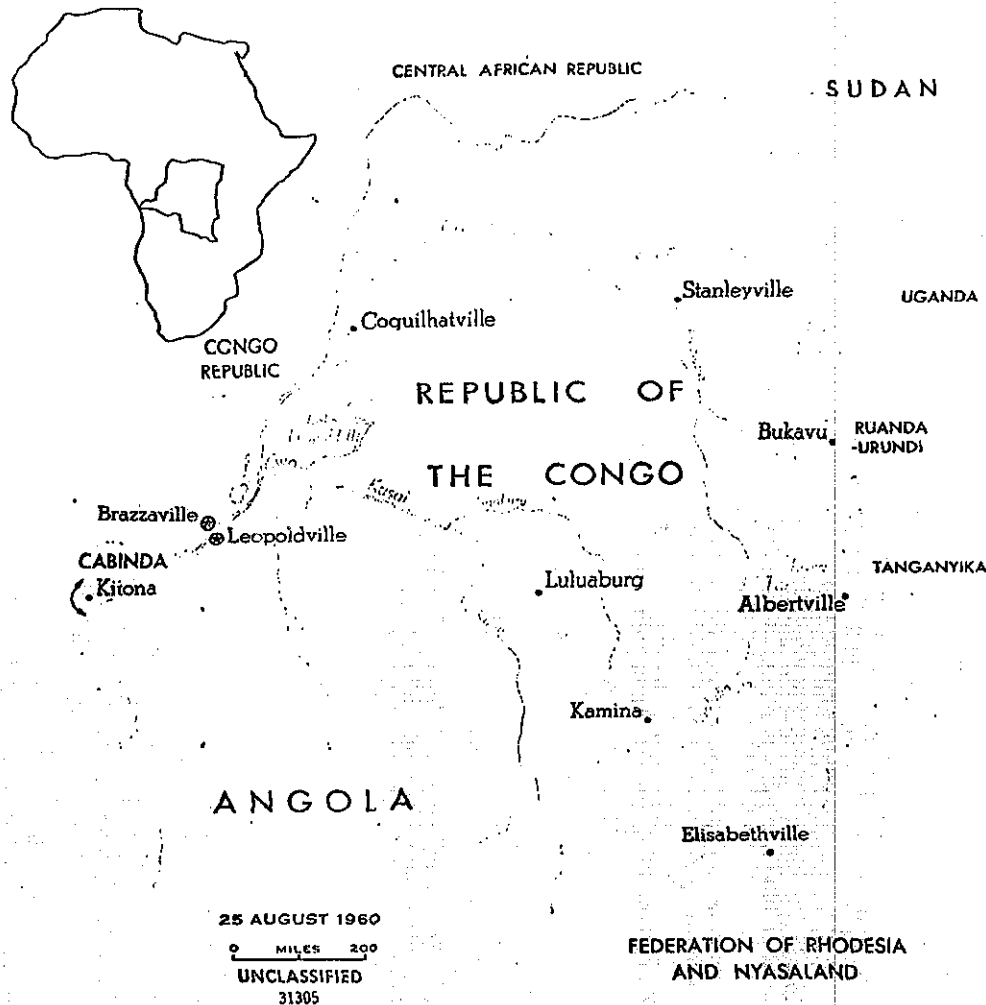
support. Soviet officials who are working closely with the Congo Government will probably encourage Lumumba in further anti-UN and anti-Western moves which might receive African backing.

The USSR had strongly supported Lumumba immediately prior to the 21 August UN Security Council meeting. In the forth official Soviet statement, issued on 20 August, Moscow congratulated the Congolese on their success so far, and again went on record with its standard ambiguous warning that "peace-loving countries" would have to take "other steps" if Belgian forces were not withdrawn and alleged plans to "dismember" the Congo were not abandoned.

The statement contained Moscow's first reference to

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"volunteers," a "flood" of which could come from among "loyal friends" on other continents as well as from African countries if additional NATO units are sent to the Congo. The Congo on 23 August rejected Soviet military help, however, stating it does not need such volunteers from foreign countries. The USSR's belated reference to the possibility of volunteers is reminiscent of its similar threat during

the Suez crisis--issued four days after the Anglo-French cease-fire was announced.

Soviet delegate Kuznetsov on 20 August officially demanded the withdrawal of Canadian troops from the Congo, and delivered a statement to Hammarskjold protesting as "completely inadmissible" his plan for a civilian UN administration to give technical and administrative assistance to the Congo Government.

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Moscow, alleging that the US and its allies would occupy posts which have a "key significance" for the economy and all vital activities of the country, objected to the exclusion of Eastern European experts from among the 65 envisaged in the plan and to the alleged relegation of African personnel to "second-rate posts," and charged such a plan would subordinate the future development of the Congo to American interests and could become a "dangerous precedent."

Despite his setback in the UN, Lumumba probably will return to the offensive. Although Brussels has announced that its remaining troops in the Congo will be withdrawn by 30 August, the Belgians reportedly plan to leave behind a token force of "technicians." Brussels' insistence that the final status of its bases should be the subject of bilateral negotiations with the Congo Government may provide Lumumba with his next issue.

Meanwhile, Lumumba probably hopes to develop a Congolese Army, both as an internal security force and as a means by which to force his way into Katanga. On 23 and 24 August he airlifted between 600 and 1,000 Congolese soldiers to Kasai Province, ostensibly to curb the tribal warfare which once again has flared between the Lulua and Baluba tribes. Lumumba probably hopes, however, that by establishing a presence in Kasai he can prevent the establishment by anti-Lumumba Congolese of a separate province in southern Kasai. There is also a possibility that this is the opening move for military action against Katanga.

Lumumba's most recent step to restore the once-effective Force Publique has been to appoint Moroccan General Kettani, deputy commander of the UN Command, as his "adviser" in organizing an army. Kettani appears to have been made available by Hammarskjold as a means of bringing the UN Command and the Congolese Army into closer coordination. There are press reports that the over-all UN force commander, General von Horn, may be replaced by a Finnish officer, General A.E. Martola, who played an important role in organizing the UNEF during the Suez crisis.

Lumumba continues to manifest uneasiness in his handling of internal affairs. A meeting in Elisabethville of anti-Lumumba Congolese from several provinces was followed by new arrests of Belgian "spies" in Leopoldville and by the closing down of ferry service between Leopoldville and Brazzaville. Lumumba's fears of collusion between Tshombé and President Youlou of the former French Congo were intensified when a Belgian airliner which made a forced landing at Lulua-bourg on 21 August was found to be carrying Abako officials from Brazzaville to Tshombé's council of war in Elisabethville.

Opposition to Lumumba in the Leopoldville area remains sporadic and ill defined. The Congo Senate continues to be a focal point for criticism of the regime, but in a governmental crisis it would probably be closed down by Lumumba. The secessionist Abako has resumed its criticism of Lumumba, but appears hamstrung by the continued support of Lumumba by Abako and Congo President Joseph Kasavubu.

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A Canadian engineer in Leopoldville has indicated to the American Embassy his concern over the presence of an estimated 60 Soviet and satellite technical personnel in Leopoldville, which would probably include doctors, medical technicians, and aircrew members. The number of such personnel increased following

the arrival at Matadi on 22 August of the Soviet vessel Arkhangelsk with 100 trucks and an undisclosed number of technicians aboard. According to a Congolese official, Lumumba is expected to ask for and receive in the immediate future Czech teachers for Congolese schools.